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LAKESIDE IRRIGATION WATER DISTRICT

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"WATER IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS"

LAKESIDE IRRIGATION WATER DISTRICT
DON MILLS - PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

The Bay-Delta is critical to California's economy, supplying drinking water for two-thirds of Californians and irrigation water for over 7 million acres of the most highly productive agricultural land in the world - a world that will have 6 billion people to feed in the year 2000. These 7 million acres are one of the world's most precious resources and are located in a state that will grow to 50 million people in 30 years. The quality of the water they drink, the abundance of the food they eat, and the recreation and environment they enjoy will be partly decided by the Cal-Fed recommendations.

The conversion or retirement of productive agricultural land will be viewed as a huge environmental mistake by the people of California in 30 years; just as we now recognize the mistakes we have made to the environmental health of the Delta. The 1992 Central Valley Improvement Act, the Bay-Delta Accord, and the listing of old and new species in the Delta have already taken far too much agricultural land out of production from the lack of a reliable irrigation water supply. The land retirement approach is a short-sighted method that would be called ridiculous by most of the 6 billion hungry people on our planet. They would view the preservation of valuable farmland as equally important as the preservation of the rain forest, the ozone layer, the Delta ecosystem, or the clean waters of the earth. Taking one acre of

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prime California farmland out of production would require 3 or 4 acres of land somewhere else to replace it's yield.

Any long-term solution to California's water problems must include additional multi-purpose storage facilities. We must catch the flood water before it does downstream damage and store and release it when the timing benefits the environmental, urban, and irrigation needs. Additional storage makes the goals of Cal-Fed achievable. The beneficial effects of replumbing the Delta will be greatly increased only if more stored water is available for timely release. This is our best chance in 30 years to solve some tough problems. Let's not yield to small selfish groups with loud negative voices. We need to choose the alternative that solves not only present, but future water problems.

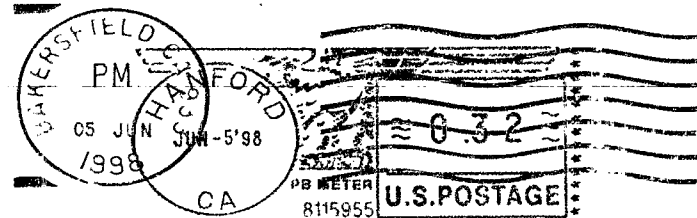
Based on your own technical evaluations, Alternative 3 with storage offers the most potential for increased performance regarding the more critical distinguishing characteristics. It increases opportunities to improve the timing, reliability, and quality of water for all uses. Well-planned surface storage increases flood control, clean power generation, recreation, flexibility, benefits to fisheries, and increases environmental protection, especially in dry years. It is not the most popular choice among some groups. The slogan, "Let's Get Better Together", means not helping one sector while hurting another. Alternative 3 with storage is the most equitable of the choices for all Californians.



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Attention: Mr. Rick Breitenbach

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